

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF A EMERGENCY HOUSING SITE NEAR
MOUNDSVILLE, MARSHALL COUNTY**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed manufactured housing (mobile homes or travel trailer) site. The site would house disaster victims displaced by major home damage caused by floods and mudslides that occurred on September 16 and 17, 2004. A Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1558-DR-WV, was signed on September 20, 2004, for this event.

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 4½ -acre site (termed “Department of Agriculture site”) for manufactured housing units to be located adjacent to Fork Ridge Road, approximately 0.25 mile east of the intersection of County Route 54 and Fork Ridge Road (County Route 17) in Moundsville, Marshall County, West Virginia. Activities would include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer), and the transport and hook-up of manufactured homes to the site. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA was written to evaluate the Proposed Action’s potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA considers alternatives, the existing environment, the Proposed Action consequences, and ways to reduce adverse affects.

Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be brief – November 30 and December 1 and 2, 2004. Written comments on the Draft EA can be faxed to FEMA’s Disaster Recovery Center in Wheeling at (304) 231-3516; and verbal comments will be accepted at (304) 231-3573 and TTY for hearing or speech-impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA’s website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm> and is also available for public review at the Miracle Valley Regional Library, 700 5th Street, Moundsville, West Virginia 26042. The library hours are Monday through Wednesday, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

All other questions regarding disaster assistance or the availability of emergency housing should be directed to FEMA’s Teleregistration line at 800-621-3362.